



THE COUNTY OF KAUAI

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News Release

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Kaua'i police continue efforts to curb COVID-19 community spread

KAPA'A – On Wednesday, Kaua'i police conducted an extensive COVID-19 related checkpoint on Kūhiō Highway by the south end entrance of the Kapa'a Bypass Road, in accordance with the statewide emergency proclamation and county emergency rules.

Nearly 1,700 vehicles passed through the area on Wednesday. The majority of the drivers stated that they were on their way to or from either essential work or essential activities.

Checkpoints of this nature have been and will continue to be conducted at various times and locations around the island to help deter people from traveling and potentially spreading COVID-19 within the community.

"Right now, we are seriously attempting to curtail the number of cars on the road and discourage people from getting into them to travel unless they absolutely need to," said Chief of Police Todd G. Raybuck. "Please consider what is actually essential and limit your activities to the best of your ability. We also want to remind people that our presence at these locations is solely an effort to prevent the spread of the virus within our community."

On Monday, 300 vehicles passed through a Waimea checkpoint, 213 through Hanalei, 160 through Po'ipū and some 1,150 through Kapa'a. A handful of drivers were advised to turn around due to conducting non-essential travel but the majority stated that they were traveling for essential needs.

On Tuesday, more than 1,400 drivers passed through a checkpoint in Po'ipū and more than 250 at a checkpoint in Kapa'a, nearly all drivers stated essential reasons for travel.



To date, the Kaua'i Police Department has issued 12 misdemeanor citations for COVID-19 emergency order violations, largely pertaining to curfew. They each could mean fines of up to \$5,000 and up to a year in jail.

Two arrests have also been made related to violations of the state's 14-day quarantine order. More information on the second arrest will be forthcoming.

"Rest assured, we will be taking further action if traffic on the roads continues in the way that it has," said Chief Raybuck. "I understand how difficult this is, as none of us have ever really faced having to make this kind of sacrifice for the greater good of our island but I do believe that if there's any community that can pull together and do this, it's ours."





Photos of Wednesday's Kapa'a checkpoint courtesy of Kaua'i Police Department.

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